

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 A multi-step polishing system, and a process for polishing a workpiece using the system. The system includes one or more polishing stations. The workpiece is polished in the presence of an oxidizer-free medium, and subsequently, the workpiece is polished in the presence of an oxidizing medium. This polishing sequence extends the life of the polishing pads and provides for a more uniform polish.

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